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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I do not know about it. That matter will be looked into."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Since Women Medical Officers are few and far between, will this Government please encourage such private practice in public interest? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir. Government have lifted the ban on private practice. They are now allowed to do private practice."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Sometimes there are complaints made against Women Medical Officers employed in Government hospitals. When such is the case and when people have not attained, when Government servants have not attained certain moral standards, the Government would be causing havoc on the people in the rural areas if they allow private practice to Women Medical Officers employed in local bodies? Will the Government therefore discourage such private practice? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Does the hon. Member want that no woman doctor employed in Government hospitals should be allowed private practice? I think that kind of treatment to women doctors in Government service is a far-fetched proposition."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" Is there any fee prescribed for these medical practitioners when they attend to private cases? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" No fees are fixed."

Transfer of Fort Cochin Municipal employees.

* 1304 *Q.*—SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the opinion of Fort Cochin Municipality was sought while transfering certain employees of the Municipality to Kozhikode Municipality in the year 1953?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" Two employees of the Fort Cochin Municipality were transferred to Kozhikode Municipality in spite of the Fort Cochin Municipality objecting to the transfer. The practice has been not to transfer any employee from a municipality to another, if the particular municipality in which the employee is working objects to the transfer. In this case Government have acted against the will of the Fort Cochin Municipality. Will the Government therefore re-consider the issue and see to it that the two employees are transferred back to Fort Cochin Municipality? "

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THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" The municipalities are only to be consulted and their consent is not necessary for the transfer of employees from one municipality to another under section 7 (3) of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920."

New bus-route from Kozhikode to Attappadi.

* 1305 *Q.*—SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to sanction a new bus-route to Attappadi from Kozhikode or any other centre in South Malabar *via* Mannarghat;

(*b*) whether any representation has been received by the Regional Transport Authority, Malabar, or by the Government in this regard; and

(*c*) if so, what orders have been passed thereon?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) There was a proposal to open a bus-route to Attappadi from Perintalmanna *via* Mannarghat.

" (*b*) Representations in this regard were received by the Regional Transport Authority, Malabar, from Janaki Bus Motors and Mannarghat Union Motor Service.

" (*c*) The proposal was dropped, as the road from Mannarghat to Attappadi is not now fit for bus traffic."

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" May I know whether it is a fact that the Regional Transport Authority insisted on granting a route from Mannarghat to Attappadi, a distance of 12 to 14 miles, and which is not a paying proposition to bus-owners; and if so, will the Government consider the desirability to make necessary improvements to the road and grant permission to ply buses from Perintalmanna or Kozhikode to Attappadi? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" At present the width of the road is 10 feet. The Divisional Engineer has reported that it is not possible to run a bus there. However, I am myself proceeding to Attappadi in the month of May. I myself will personally see whether I could make arrangements for widening the road. I will ask the Engineer and see what can be done."

Diet for the prisoners.

* 1306 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the quantity of rice portion of the diet of the prisoners of both ' B ' and ' C ' class in the jails; and